

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-8 (Cancelled).

9. (Currently Amended) A session initiating method that is applied to a computer system equipped with a graphical user interface, the session initiating method comprising:

specifying an icon image having image information and corresponding to a user;

determining whether start information necessary for initiating a session—~~that is predetermined~~ is embedded in the icon image, the start information being additional information different from the image information;

extracting the start information from the icon image based on an algorithm that is unique to the user when it is determined that the start information is embedded in the icon image—~~at the determining;~~

setting-up the session;

inputting, during the setting-up, the start information extracted ~~at the extracting—during the session set-up at the setting-up;~~

verifying whether the start information input ~~at the inputting~~ satisfies a condition for initiating the session; and

controlling the session based on a result of the verifying, wherein,

when it is verified that the start information satisfies the condition, the controlling includes initiating the session, and

when it is ~~not~~ verified that the start information does not satisfy satisfies the condition, the controlling includes aborting the session.

10. (Previously Presented) The session initiating method according to claim 9, wherein the start information includes an identification and a password of the user.

11. (Currently Amended) A computer readable recording medium that stores a computer program for initiating a session that is applied to a computer system equipped with a graphical user interface, the computer program making a computer execute:

specifying an icon image having image information and corresponding to a user;

determining whether start information necessary for initiating a session ~~that is predetermined~~ is embedded in the icon image, the start information being additional information different from the image information;

extracting the start information from the icon image based on an algorithm that is unique to the user when it is determined that the start information is embedded in the icon image ~~at the determining;~~

setting-up the session;

inputting, during the ~~session-set-up at the~~ setting up, the start information extracted ~~at the extracting;~~

verifying whether the start information input ~~at the inputting~~ satisfies a condition for initiating the session; and

controlling the session based on a result of the verifying, wherein,

when it is verified that the start information satisfies the condition, the controlling includes initiating the session, and

when it is not verified that the start information does not satisfies the condition, the controlling includes aborting the session.

12. (Previously Presented) The computer readable recording medium according to claim 11, wherein the start information includes an identification and a password of the user.

13. (Currently Amended) An icon-image creating apparatus that creates an icon image to initiate a session, the icon-image creating apparatus comprising:

an image-information inputting unit that inputs icon image information corresponding to a user;

a user-information inputting unit that inputs user information of the user;

an area detecting unit that detects a first area based on a structure of the icon image information input, the first area for embedding additional information different from the icon image information, without making a substantial change in appearance of altering the icon image;

an area determining unit that determines a second area, based on an algorithm that is unique to the user, from the first area among the first areas detected, the second area for embedding the user information;

an information embedding unit that embeds the user information in the second area determined; and

an icon-image outputting unit that outputs the icon image embedded with the user information ~~embedded~~.

14. (Previously Presented) The icon-image creating apparatus according to claim 13, wherein the user information includes an identification and a password of the user necessary for initiating the session.

15. (Currently Amended) A computer readable recording medium that stores a computer program for creating an icon-image to initiate a session, the computer program making a computer execute:

inputting icon image information corresponding to a user;

inputting user information of the user;

detecting a first area based on a structure of the icon image information input, the first area for embedding additional information different from the icon image information, without making a substantial change in appearance of ~~altering~~ the icon image;

determining a second area, based on an algorithm that is unique to the user, from the first area among the first areas detected, the second area for embedding the user information;

embedding the user information in the second area determined; and

outputting the icon image embedded with the user information ~~embedded~~.

16. (Previously Presented) The computer readable recording medium according to claim 15, wherein the user information includes an identification and a password of the user necessary for initiating the session.